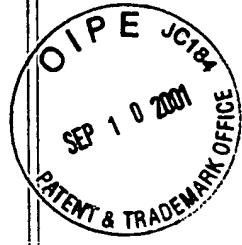


September 4, 2001
Date of Signature



Our Docket No.: B422-164

2161 #4

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

RECEIVED

SEP 12 2001

Technology Center 2100

Applicant : Kodama Kiyotaka et al.
Serial No. : 09/899,655
For : COMMUNICATION METHOD, NETWORK APPARATUS OR SYSTEM
FOR BUYING NEW ITEM OR PICKING UP ITEM
Filed : July 5, 2001
Art Unit : 2161
Examiner : Unassigned

Asst. Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

In the Specification

Rewrite the paragraph starting at page 1, line 12 and ending at page 1, line 27 as follows:

-- An item which has become needless by purchasing a new item has often been
discarded as a junk.

With the change of the times, it is guessed that, in the near future, of not only home
electric equipment but also office automation equipment such as printers for recycling
would be under an obligation to be collected for recycling. Since the collection of such
home electric equipment or the office automation equipment is a burden to a user or a junk
dealer, an efficiently collecting method has been desired or requested.

MARYLIE JENKINS
Signature